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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF  
UPTON UPON SEVERN

# REPORT

OF

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

for the Year ended

31st DECEMBER, 1955.



# RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF UPTON UPON SEVERN

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## Report for the Year 1955

*To*— The Chairman and Members of the District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Annual Report for 1955 may prove to be one of the most important that you have received from me. It has been my custom in these reports each year, to comment on the implications and importance of some event affecting the well-being of the community and then to provide you with a general picture of the health and well-being of the population in the past year. The Housing Subsidies Act of 1956 became operative in October 1955 and has introduced an entirely fresh set of principles by which the activities of the Local Authorities are to be judged in the matter of housing.

Until 1939 the Local Authority for nearly ninety years had been concerned with the suppression of nuisances as they affected the community. This function, to see that persons committing a statutory nuisance abated same, being supervisory rather than an executive one was, as indeed it still is, one of the primary duties of the Council. By 1875 it was clear that statutory nuisances, in principle if not in fact, more easily occur within rented houses. In order that the worst conditions could be alleviated, the first power to build and own houses came to the Local Authority in 1890. By 1919 dilapidation and overcrowding was so severe that private owners would obviously be unable to build sufficient houses or to let them at a rent the people could afford. The Government therefore instituted a policy of subsidy whereby grants of varying amounts were paid to the Local Authority for each house built, for housing the working classes. Although from time to time the amount of the grant varied, the policy remained unchanged throughout the inter-war years. In order that it should be clear to the Council that its duty in building houses was to ameliorate bad housing con-

ditions, the duty was laid upon them to contribute from the General Rate Fund to the Housing Account. For that reason it could be argued that the executive position of the Local Authority was given to them as a measure of sanitary improvement in the same way that the authority obtained power indeed, the duty, to see that as far as possible there was an adequate water supply, and gave it the power to own a water undertaking for that purpose. The legal position remained basically unchanged in respect of housing from 1946 until October 1955. By December 1955 the Council had built 664 houses of which 275 were built before 1939, and 389 since 1946. This latter group of houses was built in response to a general demand for as many houses to be built by Local Authorities as possible, although the actual number of houses in any one district was controlled by the Minister of Housing. It is a fact that by the year on which I am reporting the Rural District Council has become the largest owner of houses in the district. Indeed, so far as small property is concerned, and excluding tied cottages of all sorts, it would appear to be nearly a monopoly. The 1956 Act referred to above has reduced the subsidy on all new houses built by the Council excepting those new houses which are occupied by people who have been moved from houses which have been condemned by the operation of the Housing Acts. In 1949 a short amending Act was passed in which the words "working classes" were removed from all housing legislation. The Council now appears to have to act as though it were a public corporation but, so far, no definite policy has been laid down as to its objective. This will have to be worked out by the Council and it will have to be remembered that they are their own supervisors so far as the relative sections of the Housing and Public Health Acts are concerned, and that they have very wide powers concerning the selection of tenants who only hold their tenancies during the pleasure of the Housing Authority. It is generally admitted that no private owner can afford to own and control small property. That is the size of the problem faced by all Local Authorities as a result of this enactment which came into force in October 1955.

The general standard of hygiene and the way in which housing property is kept up by private owners, will, in the future, largely depend on the way in which the Council manages its own property.

The only outbreaks of infectious disease sufficiently unusual to justify comment both occurred at Powick Mental Hospital—



the first a small outbreak of Sonne Dysentery in which six patients were involved was rapidly brought under control, the Public Health Laboratory Service providing the Hospital Authorities with the necessary facilities for bacteriological investigation. The other outbreak was one of pulmonary tuberculosis which was fully investigated with the help of the Mass Radiography service. All patients and staff were X-rayed. Infectious patients were suitably segregated within the wards until they could be transferred to another hospital in the Birmingham Region which has full facilities for the treatment of such cases. The confirmation of eradication of all trace of infection within the hospital came in 1956. In all eight persons were notified from Powick Mental Hospital during the year and six patients died who had been notified in the past as suffering from phthisis.

In conclusion I have to thank Mr. Cromwell, Mr. Firth your Surveyor and the staff generally for their unstinted co-operation throughout the year.

(Signed) H. F. GREEN.

*Medical Officer of Health.*

*Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.*

Acreage	...	...	...	...	...	50,947
Number of inhabited houses, according to the rate books	...	...	...	...	...	4,050
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£74,114
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£292

Resident Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	14,960
Birth Rate (per 1,000 of estimated resident population)	...	...	...	...	...	13.43
Still-Birth Rate (per 1,000 live and still-births)	...	...	...	...	...	19.50
Death Rate (per 1,000 of estimated resident population)	...	...	...	...	...	16.49
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	...	...	...	...	...	29.85

*Comparable data for England and Wales, 1955.*

Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	15.00
Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	11.70
Infantile Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	...	24.90

DEATHS

CAUSES OF DEATHS (ALL AGES)

	M.	F.	Total
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	1	1	2
Cancer—all forms	9	23	32
Diabetes	—	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	17	27	44
Diseases of heart and arteries	54	57	111
Influenza	1	1	2
Bronchitis	11	6	17
Pneumonia and other diseases of respiratory system	16	20	36
Diseases of digestive system	2	2	4
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	3	4
Hyperplasion of prostate	2	—	2
Congenital malformations	3	2	5
Violence	7	6	13
All other causes	14	14	28
Total	138	163	301

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES  
FOR THE AREA

*Laboratory Services.*

Chemical analysis is carried out, as before, by arrangement with the County Laboratory at the County Buildings. Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Worcester Royal Infirmary.

*Clinics.*

There are none provided by this Authority.

The County Council have provided by local arrangement with Voluntary Committees, for Infant Welfare Centres to be held at the following places:—

Upton upon Severn ...	1st and 3rd Tuesdays in the month at 2.30 p.m.
Welland ... ..	2nd and 4th Fridays in the month at 2 p.m.
Hanley Swan ... ..	3rd Wednesday in the month at 2.30 p.m.
Kempsey ... ..	1st Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.
Longdon ... ..	2nd Tuesday in the month at 2 p.m.

Clinics are also provided at Worcester and Malvern under arrangements made by the County Council, for Maternity and Eye Cases.

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INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Visits to premises for investigation ... ..	9
Premises disinfected after notifiable diseases ... ..	1
Premises disinfected after other diseases ... ..	2

*Tuberculosis.*

At the end of 1955 the tuberculosis register contained the names of 45 males and 45 females, who normally reside in the district.

During the year 20 new cases were notified, 17 on account of pulmonary tuberculosis and 3 because of the presence of the disease in part of the body other than the lungs.

## MASS RADIOGRAPHY

The Dudley Mobile Unit visited Powick, Kempsey and Upton-upon-Severn between the 22nd and 29th June, in all 547 persons were X-rayed at public sessions of whom 3 were recalled for clinical examination and 2 were referred to the Chest Clinic for diseases other than tuberculosis. 2 cases of non-active tuberculosis were detected.

### MINIATURE FILMS

			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Powick					
<i>Parish Hall</i>					
Public	...	...	77	106	183
Kempsey					
<i>Parish Hall</i>					
Public	...	...	63	112	175
Upton-upon-Severn		...			
Public	...	...	82	107	189
TOTALS		...	222	325	547



# INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1955

<i>DISEASE.</i>	<i>All Ages</i>	<i>Under 1 year</i>	<i>1-2 yrs.</i>	<i>2-3 yrs.</i>	<i>3-4 yrs.</i>	<i>4-5 yrs.</i>	<i>5-9 yrs.</i>	<i>10-14 yrs.</i>	<i>15-19 yrs.</i>	<i>20-34 yrs.</i>	<i>35-44 yrs.</i>	<i>45-64 yrs.</i>	<i>65+</i>	<i>No age Specified</i>
SCARLET FEVER .....	7					2	5							
PNEUMONIA .....	3										2			1
MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION .....	1					1								
MEASLES .....	192	2	13	13	16	13	121	9	1	1	1			2
WHOOPING COUGH	19	1	4		1	2	9				1			1
DYSENTERY .....	9						1			2		1	5	
POLIOMYELITIS (Paralytic)	1					1								

# DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION CARRIED OUT DURING 1955.

	Ages 1-5 years	Ages 5-14 years	Total for Year
Children who received a full course of Primary Im- munisation ... ..	124	17	141
Children who received a Re-inforcing Injection ...	13	81	94

∞  
*Immunisation in relation to Child Population.*

Number of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1955.

Age at 31.12.55. <i>i.e.</i> Born in Year	Under 1 1955	1 1954	2 1953	3 1952	4 1951	5-9 1946-50	10-14 1941-45	Total under 15
NUMBER IMMUNISED .....	5	96	123	132	120	940	779	2,195

# SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

## for the Year ended 31st December, 1955

To—

The Chairman and Members of the District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present a report of the work of the Sanitary Inspector for the year ended December, 1955.

During the year I lost the services of Mr. M. Sutton, my Assistant and Pupil, who has been called to do his National Service training. His departure from the office was keenly felt, as after three years' service he had become a very useful member of the staff.

The work of the department has increased enormously. Meat inspection alone entailed visits to the slaughterhouses totalling 266, and visits in connection with Housing improvements and repairs totalled 182.

Work on the slum clearance programme was commenced, three small Clearance Areas being approved by the Council, but owing to the increase in other work, progress has been very slow.

The appointment of an additional qualified assistant was approved during the year.

### *Summary of Visits and Inspections.*

General Complaints	...	...	...	...	42
Drainage inspections—supervision of work	...	...	...	...	73
Drain Tests	...	...	...	...	36
Improvement Grants—Housing Act, 1949	...	...	...	...	182
Visits to temporary dwellings	...	...	...	...	30
Visits to Hop Pickers' dwellings	...	...	...	...	3
Investigations of Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	1
Inspection of work in progress	...	...	...	...	118
Inspection of dairies, cowsheds, etc.	...	...	...	...	27
Visits in connection with Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	9
Inspections under the Petroleum Regulations	...	...	...	...	36
Inspection of Cafes, Kitchens and Public Houses	...	...	...	...	15
Inspection of Food premises	...	...	...	...	21
Inspections under P.H. (Meat) Regulations	...	...	...	...	284
Miscellaneous visits and revisits	...	...	...	...	164
Verminous premises fumigated	...	...	...	...	1

*No. of samples submitted for analysis:—*

Water	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	125
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*Factory and Workshops Act.*

No. of premises inspected	...	...	...	...	11
No. of notices served	...	{	Cleanliness	...	Nil
		{	Sanitary Accom.	...	1

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS.

There are three licensed slaughterhouses in operation in the area.

The use of the slaughterhouse at Powick Hospital was discontinued during the year.

Post-mortem inspection of all animals slaughtered is carried out.

Number of animals inspected during the year —

Cattle	...	172
Sheep	...	573
Pigs	...	106
Calves	...	48
<i>Total</i>	...	899

*Bakehouses.*

No. of Bakehouses in area	...	...	...	...	7
No. of inspections	...	...	...	...	19
No. of notices served	...	{	Cleanliness	...	Nil
		{	Sanitary Accom.	...	Nil

*Ice Cream.*

There are no Manufacturers of Ice Cream in the district.

No. of Retailers	...	...	...	...	31
No. of Inspections of premises	...	...	...	...	11

*Cafes, Kitchens and Public Houses.*

No. of inspections made	...	...	...	...	15
No. of notices served	...	{	Cleanliness	...	Nil
		{	Sanitary Accom.	...	Nil



*Food condemned as being unfit for Human Consumption.*

Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	10 lbs. 0 ozs.
Liver	...	...	...	...	...	18 lbs. 0 ozs.
Tinned Meat	...	...	...	1 cwt. 1 qr. 1 lb.	15½ ozs.	
„ Tomatoes	...	...	...	1 qr. 2 lbs.	0 ozs.	
„ Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	15 Tins
„ Ham	...	...	...	...	...	1 „
„ Peas	...	...	...	...	...	2 „
„ Beans	...	...	...	...	...	3 „
„ Milk	...	...	...	...	...	4 „
„ Tomato Soup	...	...	...	...	...	1 „
„ Fish	...	...	...	...	...	4 „
„ Orange juice	...	...	...	...	...	1 „
„ Tomato juice	...	...	...	...	...	1 „

WATER SAMPLING

*Private Wells.*

No. of Samples submitted for Analysis	...	...	125
Result—Satisfactory	...	...	30
Unsatisfactory	...	...	95
No. of wells cleaned and repaired as a result of informal action	...	...	12
No. of wells closed	...	...	—

*Swimming Baths.*

No. of privately owned swimming baths open to public	...	...	1
No. of Samples submitted for analysis	...	...	1
Result—Satisfactory	...	...	1
Unsatisfactory	...	...	—

## HOUSING

No. of houses erected during the year	...	...	...	68
(a) by Local Authority	...	...	...	45
(b) by other bodies or persons	...	...	...	23

Table showing number of houses completed by the Local Authority as part of the Post War programme:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Houses Completed</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Houses Completed</i>
1946	10	1951	32
1947	27	1952	58
1948	53	1953	57
1949	8	1954	54
1950	46	1955	45

## HOUSING ACT, 1949

### *Improvement Grants.*

Forty-six applications for improvement grants were received during the year.

Thirty-four were approved, four were rejected, three withdrawn, and five awaiting consideration at end of year.

## ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS

### *Public Health Acts.*

No. of premises visited	...	...	...	10
No. of defects or nuisances discovered	...	...	...	32
No. of defects or nuisances abated	...	...	...	32
No. of notices served—Informal	...	...	...	10
No. of notices served—Statutory	...	...	...	3
Legal Proceedings Instituted	...	...	...	1

### *Housing Acts.*

No. of premises inspected	...	...	...	13
No. of premises unfit for habitation	...	...	...	2
No. of premises not in all respects fit	...	...	...	11
No. of premises rendered fit	...	...	...	6
No. of premises in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	1
No. of premises in respect of which closing orders were made	...	...	...	1

## HOUSING REPAIRS & RENTS ACT, 1954

No. of Certificates of Disrepair Granted	...	...	4
No. of Certificates revoked	...	...	Nil

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## SEWERAGE

The new scheme for Holly Green and Ryall Grove in the parish of Ripple was completed during the year.

Work was commenced on the proposed improvements to the sewerage arrangements for Callow End.

The conditions existing at Bowling Green and Bastonford in the parish of Powick are still subjects of justified complaints.

Sewers and disposal works are provided and maintained in the following parishes:—

Upton-upon-Severn	...	Pumping Scheme
Kempsey ... ..	...	ditto
Powick ... ..	...	ditto
Earls Croome ... ..	...	ditto
Longdon ... ..	...	ditto
Hanley Castle ... ..	...	Gravitation
Hanley Swan ... ..	...	ditto

A number of smaller schemes dealing with sewage from small groups of houses are also in existence.

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## REFUSE COLLECTION

Refuse collection is carried out by direct labour and is under the control of the Council's Surveyor.

## RODENT CONTROL

From inspections and surveys carried out towards the latter end of the year it would appear that the rat population in the area has greatly diminished.

A few minor infestations were discovered, but except for the Council's refuse tips, which require frequent attention, the district appears to be practically free of rats and mice.

No. of infestations treated	...	...	...	...	132
Private houses ...	...	...	...	...	71
Business premises	...	...	...	...	48
No. of other infestations	...	...	...	...	13
No. of complaints received	...	...	...	...	24

A free treatment is given in respect of private dwellings, but a charge based on time and materials is made in the case of business premises.

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In conclusion, I wish to express my gratitude to Mr. Whitham, Chief Sanitary Inspector, Malvern Urban District Council, and to Mr. T. Marsden, Chief Sanitary Inspector, Worcester City, for their co-operation and assistance during my absence from duty.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) E. CROMWELL,  
*Sanitary Inspector.*









